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Admiral Arthur W. Radford
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Raddy:

Since our conversation of 8 May, I have been reflecting on some of your remarks with respect to the National War College. I have had the benefit of the thinking of General Bull, who as you know was Commandant of the institution; General Truscott; and Sherman Kent, who once served a year on the civilian faculty and later three years as a member of the College's Board of Civilian Consultants.

They feel that the demand for graduates of the College is so great that any material reduction in size of the student body is not desirable. Indeed, the only disadvantage to the present rather large enrollment seems to spring from the inability of some departments or agencies to fill their quotas with fully qualified men. However, even this situation does not warrant cutting the over-all size of the college so long as other appropriate agencies of government fill unused slots with students who meet the required standards. As a matter of fact, CIA has been trying without success for several years, to have the number of slots allocated to this Agency increased. I am certain that we could fill those slots with properly qualified people.

I find myself in complete agreement with you on the question of the seniority of officers selected for the College. I feel very strongly that no student should be sent to the College who did not have every expectation soon to be selected for Flag or General officer rank or for positions of the comparably high responsibility in their departments or elsewhere in the executive branch of the government.

Just to note in passing, neither General Bull nor Dr. Kent shares your apprehension that the National War College

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is now duplicating the work of the other top service colleges in any undesirable manner. They feel that to the extent duplication exists, it is because the service colleges have emulated the National War College and are now very properly placing some emphasis on political, economic, and social problems in the international field in recognition of the fact that in the future senior commanders and higher staff officers will require an understanding of such problems. The small amount of duplication that exists appears to be all to the good and mandatory in all senior service colleges.

I have done some more thinking on the desirability of including instruction on the covert side of cold war activities in the National War College curriculum. I believe I commented that setting up a separate school for such instruction had about it one very bothersome element, namely, unless this school were exceedingly well cloaked and isolated such as our own training center, there would be great danger that the identity of people attending would become known to an enemy. The result would be to make these carefully trained officers relatively useless for covert cold war activities. On the other hand, I incline towards my original suggestion of incorporating into the National War College curriculum an adequate course of instruction in this subject. General Bull believes that the college itself could accommodate such a course in its war planning period and that the required security standards could be achieved. If such a procedure were to prove desirable, naturally I would expect to make my resources, including members of my staff knowledgeable in such matters, available for whatever type of instruction seemed desirable.

Sincerely,

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Drafted by Gen. Bull & Sherman Kent
retyped: O/DCI: [redacted] (12 June)
Distribution:

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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*Note: 1 cc sent to the Director of Training
on 16 Jul 56 -*